

5 - Sources of Information

Our Family - Lives, Lineage, Legacy

Clara (Romein) Vander Meer

Clara provided the following:

1. Obituaries and newspaper clippings containing details of when and where family members were born, where they lived, when they died and where they were interred.
2. Romein and DeMik family photographs inherited from her mother.
3. Family stories and anecdotal information.

Online Genealogy Websites

1. <https://www.ancestry.com>
2. <https://www.familysearch.org>
3. <https://www.wiewaswie.nl> (Largest Dutch genealogy database)
4. <https://www.genealogieonline.nl> (Dutch genealogy site)
5. <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl> (Dutch National Archives)

Online Data

1. Memorials for Deceased Loved Ones

During the 1300's, people of means in the Netherlands began the custom of holding an annual mass, or memorial service, on the anniversary of the death of a loved one. The cost of performing a memorial service was guaranteed by selling a portion of property called *memorieland*. Subsequent generations inherited *memorieland* from the founder and documented their own family information in *memorie* books that later were used to create genealogy records.

2. Church Records

From about 1550 on, churches in the Netherlands recorded baptisms, marriages, burials, and occasionally, confirmations, memberships, and conversions.

3. Civil Registration System

In 1810, the Netherlands was incorporated into the Napoleonic Empire. In 1811, Napoleon decreed that all births, marriages, and deaths had to be reported to a civil registration office located in each municipality. After Napoleon's defeat, the Dutch government continued to use the civil registration system.

4. Family Trees

Dutch families with Romein and DeMik ancestors preserved their genealogy history by creating and saving family trees on the Internet.

5. First Reformed Church of Wichert (<https://frcwichert.yolasite.com/photos.php>)
6. Illinois State Museum (www.illinoisstatemuseum.org)
7. The Kankakee County Atlas of 1883; J. H. Beers & Co., 1883

Commemorative Booklets

1. Seventy-fifth Anniversary - First Reformed Church of Wichert (1968)
2. The Saga of St. Anne - Bicentennial Celebration (1976)